

intermediate between *pumilum* and "*griseiceps*." The latter I consider to be unquestionably the grey extreme of the same species, the rufescent phase of which is *G. pumilum*—the differences being exactly parallel with those noticeable in *G. gnoma*.

6. *GLAUCIDIUM SIJU*.

Glaucidium siju, Ridgw. *l. c.* p. 105 ; Sharpe, *l. c.* p. 59.

Hab. Cuba.

IV.—*Notes on the Ornithology of Corsica.*

By C. BYGRAVE WHARTON, F.Z.S.

It must not for one moment be thought that these notes profess to give a complete list of the birds of Corsica. They simply embody the results of my personal experience during a residence of nearly eight months in the island. Unfortunately by far the greater part of that time was spent on the west coast (undoubtedly the worst for birds), or I feel sure many more species would have been noticed than are included in the following list. Of the 113 species enumerated, 90 were killed by myself, and the remaining 23 were otherwise carefully identified.

Landing at Ajaccio on Sept 26th, 1874, my researches were confined to the west coast until the beginning of March 1875 ; I then crossed the island and spent a short time at Bastia and Aleria on the east, returned to Ajaccio on March 19th, and remained till April 7th, then recrossed the island, and, spending only two days in Corte, passed till May 20th in or near Bastia.

Though the laws concerning guns hampered me considerably during the latter part of my stay, I had not much to complain of till the 2nd of May : on that day three weeks' work in the swamps of Biguglia told on me in the shape of fever ; and though not as bad as it might have been, I was advised by my doctor to leave the island as soon as my health permitted. Thus was my chance of noticing several more

spring migrants, and of getting a few good nests, completely extinguished.

There is what they call a museum at Ajaccio; but as it contains birds from all quarters of the globe, which seem to be arranged according to size, and have only a number (and not always even that) attached to them, and as I was unable to discover the existence of a catalogue to which the numbers might refer, the whole thing was of course practically worthless.

My best thanks are due to Messrs. H. E. Dresser and Howard Saunders for their kindness in assisting me in the identification of a few small Warblers, sent to England for that purpose.

1. *FALCO PEREGRINUS*.

Very few observed. One seen in captivity, that had been taken winged at Porto Vecchio in March, appeared to be less than the usual size.

2. *FALCO TINNUNCULUS*.

Several seen during the winter, but fewer towards spring.

3. *MILVUS ICTINUS*.

Fairly distributed over all the parts of the island visited.

4. *CIRCUS ÆRUGINOSUS*.

Numerous about the plains and swamps on both sides of the island.

5. *CIRCUS CYANEUS*.

Two or three seen during the winter on the west side of the island.

6. *OTUS BRACHYOTUS*.

On April 17th saw one in the flesh that had just been shot at Biguglia. No others seen or heard of.

7. *CYPSELUS APUS*.

Numerous after April 15th.

8. *HIRUNDO RUSTICA*.

Very common after March 14th.

9. *COTYLE RIPARIA*.

Fairly numerous after the end of March.

10. *COTYLE RUPESTRIS*.

None noticed until the beginning of December; but after that date numbers were seen on both the west and east coasts and at Corte.

11. *CHELIDON URBICA*.

Very common after March 14th.

12. *ALCEDO ISPIDA*.

A few seen on the sea-coast at Ajaccio in November, but never noticed afterwards or elsewhere.

13. *MEROPS APIASTER*.

At Biguglia on April 30th and May 1st I noticed several small parties of six or eight flying in a northerly direction. None seemed to settle, though every now and then one would halt in its flight as if with the intention of doing so. Once, on firing at the leading bird of a party of six, about fifty yards up, they all halted for a few seconds straight over my head, and then flew on as if nothing had happened, not altering their former course in the least.

14. *UPUPA EPOPS*.

First seen at the beginning of April, but nowhere numerous.

15. *CERTHIA FAMILIARIS*.

A few seen in the large chestnut-groves at Corte on April 8th, but observed nowhere else.

16. *TROGLODYTES PARVULUS*.

Fairly common, but more so on the west than the east side of the island.

17. *CISTICOLA SCHENICOLA*.

Numerous at Biguglia, but observed nowhere else.

18. *CALAMODYTA ARUNDINACEA* (L.).

The Great Sedge Warbler seems to occur but sparingly, none being observed on the west side, and only four or five on the east, three of which I shot, all proving to be males.

19. CALAMODYTA PHRAGMITIS.

Fairly numerous at Biguglia during April.

20. CALAMODYTA AQUATICA.

Several seen at Biguglia at the end of April, but by no means so numerous as the preceding species.

21. CALAMODYTA MELANOPOGON.

I shot one in the Campo dell' Oro, Ajaccio, on January 4th, and another close to the same spot on the 7th. Unfortunately my dog, having any thing but a tender mouth, and reaching both birds before I could, completely spoiled them for skinning, though there was enough left to send to England to make sure of the identification. One or two others were noticed in the vicinity; but no one who has not tried to shoot small marsh-frequenting Warblers can appreciate the difficulty there is in getting far enough from your bird to save cutting it all to pieces, and yet keep it in sight.

22. POTAMODUS CETTII.

Very common in all the swamps on both sides of the island.

23. SYLVIA MELANOCEPHALA.

Common both in gardens and on the hills.

24. MELIZOPHILUS SARDUS.

This little Warbler is not uncommon in the low "maquis" on the west coast; but it is most difficult to shoot, owing to its creeping habits, only rising when you are close to it, and almost instantly dropping again. The only way I ever got a specimen fit to skin was by making the dog range about twenty yards ahead, and then making the most of my time when the bird did show itself. The only one seen on the east coast I shot at Biguglia on April 27th. Of its breeding-habits I know nothing; but, judging from the localities it frequents, the nest must be most difficult to find, even more so than the bird is to shoot.

25. CURRUCA CINEREA.

Two seen at Biguglia in April were the only ones noticed.

26. CURRUCA ATRICAPILLA.

First noticed on December 24th, several seen in January, and fairly numerous afterwards.

27. PHYLLOSCOPUS SIBILATOR.

Several seen after April 10th.

28. PHYLLOSCOPUS TROCHILUS.

Fairly numerous after the beginning of April. None noticed during the winter, though I was constantly on the look-out for them.

29. PHYLLOSCOPUS RUFUS.

Very numerous during the whole winter, but considerably less so in April.

30. REGULUS IGNICAPILLUS.

By no means numerous, and the only species of *Regulus* noticed. Two or three seen near Ajaccio in November, a few near Cavo in January, and two near Bastia in March.

31. PHILOMELA LUSCINIA.

First noticed at Biguglia on March 16th, after which date they were numerous.

32. RUTICILLA PHÆNICURUS.

Several seen after April 10th, the date on which this species was first noticed.

33. RUTICILLA TITYS.

A few seen in the neighbourhood of Ajaccio during the winter, but none after February. This species does not appear to breed in the island.

34. ERITHACUS RUBECULA.

Fairly numerous, and to be found both in gardens and on the hills.

35. CYANECULA WOLFI.

I saw one shot by Mr. W. Jesse at Biguglia on April 12th, it being the only one noticed.

36. SAXICOLA CENANTHE.

First noticed at Corte on April 8th, after which date they became numerous in all suitable localities.

37. PRATINCOLA RUBICOLA.

One of the commonest birds on the west side of the island, but only a few seen on the east.

38. PRATINCOLA RUBETRA.

First noticed at Biguglia on April 17th, after which they were fairly numerous.

39. ACCENTOR MODULARIS.

Probably more common than it appears, but, owing to its habit of keeping in the low "maquis" on the hills, and not frequenting gardens or cultivated lands, is often overlooked. All I saw were in the low cover on the hill-sides of the west coast. None noticed on the east side of the island or at Corte.

40. PARUS MAJOR.

Common.

41. PARUS ATER.

I shot two specimens of this Titmouse in the woods above Cavro on January 13th; and they were the only ones noticed in any part of the island.

42. PARUS CÆRULEUS.

Common, but less so than *Parus major*.

43. ACREDULA IRBII.

Scarce. A few seen near Ajaccio in November, and one pair, evidently breeding, noticed in a large clump of thick brambles near Biguglia on April 17th.

44. MOTACILLA ALBA.

Common during the winter, but none seen after March.

45. BUDYTES FLAVA (L.).

Several seen during April; but I am unable to say for certain whether they breed in the island or not.

46. BUDYTES CINEREOCAPILLA.

A few found at Biguglia in April, consorting with the previous species.

47. BUDYTES BOARULA.

Numerous during the winter on the shores of the Gulf of Ajaccio, and found breeding along the small mountain-streams

on the east coast in April. Two nests that I found (one on the 21st, containing six eggs, and another on the 26th, containing nearly fledged young) were both placed in most conspicuous positions, in the face of bare rocks overhanging the stream.

48. *ANTHUS TRIVIALIS*.

Several seen on the east coast after April 10th, but none noticed during the winter.

49. *ANTHUS PRATENSIS*.

Common and resident.

50. *TURDUS MUSICUS*.

Excessively numerous during the winter; but by March most seemed to have left, and none were seen in April or May. I think few, if any, remain to breed.

51. *TURDUS ILIACUS*.

Only two seen. One I shot at Porto Pollo on the west coast on February 6th; and the other I saw in the Ajaccio market a few days afterwards.

52. *TURDUS MERULA*.

Very numerous during the winter; but the numbers decrease in March, though several remain and breed in the island. This bird appears to breed considerably later in Corsica than in England, the first nests (and those without the full complement of eggs) not being found till the middle of April.

53. *PETROCOSSYPHUS CYANUS*.

A few seen in all parts of the island visited. During the winter they were often to be found tied up with the Thrushes and Blackbirds in the Ajaccio market.

54. *CINCLUS AQUATICUS*.

I noticed a few Dippers on the mountain-streams on the east coast; but as I was unable to shoot a specimen, and so make sure of the identification, the birds seen *may* have been *Cinclus albicollis*.

55. *ORIOIUS GALBULA*.

Noticed large numbers (nearly all being males) at Biguglia on April 27th, though but few were seen afterwards.

56. *MUSCICAPA GRISOLA*.

Several seen on the east coast after April 20th.

57. *MUSCICAPA ATRICAPILLA*.

After April 13th this species was not uncommon in the neighbourhood of Bastia and Biguglia.

58. *MUSCICAPA COLLARIS*.

I shot the only specimen of this bird seen, close to Bastia, on April 10th.

59. *LANIUS AURICULATUS*.

I shot the first seen at Sisco, on the east coast, on April 20th, after which date several were noticed.

60. *GARRULUS GLANDARIUS*.

Not uncommon on the east coast; none seen on the west.

61. *CORVUS CORAX*.

Fairly common.

62. *CORVUS CORONE*.

Scarce. Apparently a late breeder in Corsica; I watched one in the act of building its nest on April 30th.

63. *CORVUS CORNIX*.

Very common and resident. The first eggs were taken on April 12th; and the nests seem always to be placed in low trees, in or on the borders of swamps. The Hoodie in Corsica is a very wary bird, even leaving the nest before it is possible to get within shot; he then generally watches operations from the topmost branch of some neighbouring tree, but on the slightest sign of approach moves off again to a safe distance.

64. *STURNUS VULGARIS*.

Not common, and only noticed in the months of February, March, and April.

65. *FRINGILLA CŒLEBS*.

One of the commonest birds in the island.

66. *CARDUELUS ELEGANS*.

Common and resident.

67. *CHRYSOMITRIS CITRINELLA*.

Only noticed during the winter, when they were to be found congregating in flocks with Serin Finches, Linnets, and Goldfinches.

68. *SERINUS HORTULANUS*.

Numerous during winter ; and though all do not seem to remain, numbers breed in the olive-groves. First eggs found on April 10th.

69. *LIGURINUS CHLORIS*.

Not uncommon.

70. *PYRGITA PETRONIA*.

For about a week at the end of December there were several of these birds in the immediate neighbourhood of Ajaccio ; but I never saw them afterwards. On the 28th I shot two out of one of my windows ; and all the time they stayed with us they were exceptionally tame.

71. *PASSER CISALPINUS*.

The commonest bird in the island.

Though constantly on the look-out for *Passer hispaniolensis*, I never noticed it.

72. *LINOTA CANNABINA*.

Common, but most so in the winter.

73. *EMBERIZA CIRLUS*.

Common ; but all those seen during winter do not seem to remain to breed.

74. *EMBERIZA HORTULANA*.

A few seen at Biguglia on April 30th and May 1st.

75. *EMBERIZA MILIARIA*.

Common and resident.

76. *EMBERIZA SCHÆNICLUS*.

I shot the only one seen, on March 17th, at Biguglia.

77. *ALAUDA ARVENSIS*.

Not at all common during the autumn or early winter; very numerous in January, February, and March, but only a few seen in April. I killed many Larks, in the hopes of finding *Galerita cristata*; but the above and following species were the only two seen.

78. *ALAUDA ARBOREA*.

Very numerous on the west coast all the time I was there, but only a few seen on the east coast in April.

79. *YUNX TORQUILLA*.

Only two seen. One I shot near Ajaccio on November 23rd, and the other at Biguglia on April 15th.

80. *CUCULUS CANORUS*.

None heard till April 21st; but after that date they were fairly numerous.

81. *COLUMBA LIVIA*.

On April 3rd I shot one of six disturbed from an old tower on the west coast; and these were the only ones seen.

82. *COLUMBA PALUMBUS*.

Not uncommon during the winter, but none noticed in the spring.

83. *TURTUR AURITUS*.

Noticed several on and after April 27th.

84. *COTURNIX COMMUNIS*.

Not many seen.

85. *CACCABIS RUBRA*.

Common during winter, but apparently less so in spring.

86. *VANELLUS VULGARIS*.

Fairly numerous during the winter.

87. *ÆGIALITIS HIATICULA*.

I only noticed this bird twice. On April 22nd I put up four on a river near Biguglia, and on the 30th saw four (possibly the same birds) on the borders of the lake. On each occasion they were very shy.

88. *ARDEA CINEREA*.

A few seen in the marshes on both sides of the island.

89. *HERODIAS ALBA*.

One seen at Biguglia on April 30th.

90. *ARDEOLA COMATA*.

On May 17th I saw one in the flesh that had been shot at Biguglia on the 15th.

91. *ARDETTA MINUTA*.

The only one seen was a live specimen that had been taken in the neighbourhood of Bastia about the middle of April.

92. *BOTAURUS STELLARIS*.

By no means common. The only two seen were shot by myself at Biguglia on March 17th, and were both females.

93. *TOTANUS OCHROPUS*.

A few seen and one shot at Biguglia in April.

94. *ACTITIS HYPOLEUCA*.

A few seen along the shore at Ajaccio during the winter, and a pair seen near Biguglia on April 22nd.

95. *GALLINAGO MEDIA*.

Numerous during the winter, a few seen on the west coast in March, and two seen at Biguglia in the middle of April.

96. *GALLINAGO GALLINULA*.

Only a few seen.

97. *SCOLOPAX RUSTICOLA*.

By no means numerous on the west coast, but, I believe, common on the east.

98. *RALLUS AQUATICUS*.

Seen on both sides of the island, but does not appear to be numerous.

99. *ORTYGOMETRA PORZANA*.

Noticed on both coasts in March and April.

100. *GALLINULA CHLOROPUS*.

Two seen at Biguglia in April were all I noticed.

101. *FULICA ATRA.*

Thousands on the lakes on the east coast during winter, numbers remaining to breed. None seen on the west coast.

102. *MARECA PENELOPE.*

The only one seen on the west coast was a male that had just been shot in the Campo dell' Oro, Ajaccio, on March 27th.

Except by shooting them, it is exceedingly difficult to make out for certain the different species of *Anatidæ* that swarm on the east-coast lakes in winter; and as I was unfortunate enough never to be at Bastia at the time of any of the large drives, I was able to identify but few Ducks.

103. *ANAS BOSCHAS.*

Common on the east coast, where numbers remain and breed.

104. *QUERQUEDULA CIRCIA.*

I shot the only one seen in the Campo dell' Oro on January 26th.

105. *QUERQUEDULA CRECCA.*

Not many noticed.

106. *FULIGULA CRISTATA.*

Thousands on the lakes on the east coast in winter; and numbers were still there at the end of April. None seen on the west.

107. *ERISMATURA LEUCOCEPHALA.*

The only one seen was on Lake Biguglia on March 8th, in company with innumerable Coots, Tufted Ducks, &c.

108. *MERGUS SERRATOR.*

Only one seen; and the shooting of this was lucky, to say the least of it. On the morning of December 4th I noticed on the gulf at Ajaccio two birds (this and a Shag) swimming about twenty yards apart, right in front of my window (my house was a little distance out of the town, and had only a road between it and the sea); so, loading my sporting-rifle, and putting up the 300-yards sight, I let go the right barrel at this bird, not knowing for certain at the time what the

species was; the bullet carried away the back part of the head, and naturally laid the bird motionless. The Shag, on hearing the shot, instead of leaving, as he should have done, merely raised himself in the water and flapped his wings; instantly I let him have the contents of the left barrel, the bullet cutting the back-bone about four inches from the tail, and throwing the bird backwards completely out of the water. Sending one of the servants to hail a fishing-boat that was fortunately near, within ten minutes from first seeing these two birds they were both lying on my table. During the day the birds, which were of course spoilt for preserving by the bullets, were seen by the Consul and one or two other English friends; but I am afraid such a lucky right-and-left with a rifle occurs but once in a lifetime.

109. *PODICEPS NIGRICOLLIS*.

I noticed a few on the lakes on the east coast in March, but none in April.

110. *LARUS CANUS*.

Fairly numerous.

111. *LARUS LEUCOPHÆUS*.

Not uncommon.

112. *LARUS RIDIBUNDUS*.

Numerous.

113. *PHALACROCORAX CRISTATUS*.

Several seen on the west coast during the winter.

V.—*Contributions to the Ornithology of Borneo*.—Part I.

By R. BOWDLER SHARPE.

(Plate II.)

I AM indebted to the kindness of Mr. Arthur Everett for the collection of birds which I have the pleasure of describing in the present paper. Mr. Everett is well known as the discover of the beautiful *Pitta arcuata*, described a few years ago by Mr. Gould (Ann. N. H. (4) vii. p. 340), and figured